



State of Arizona
Department of Education

To: Directors and Special Education Staff

From: Maura Mall, Director of Program Support and Monitoring

Subject: Arizona Examining Practices Manual, 2015-2016

In order for the State to have an effective system of general supervision the system must support practices that improve outcomes for students with disabilities. As the Federal Office of Special Education Programs has moved to a system of Results-Driven Accountability, Exceptional Student Services has also moved to Results-Driven Accountability. The Examining Practices system that Exceptional Student Services will be utilizing is a system that focuses on examining your educational practices to ensure quality learning and outcomes for students with disabilities. The new Examining Practices system allows local education agencies (LEAs) to examine data to improve their practices and outcomes for students with disabilities and to examine their own systems of practice. The intent of the new system is to combine oversight with collaboration: the State monitors the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) while collaborating with LEAs to improve outcomes. Although procedural compliance is important, the new system does not focus strictly on procedural compliance; instead, the system's focus is on balancing procedural compliance with outcomes for students with disabilities.

We transitioned to the Examining Practices monitoring system in the 2015-2016 school year. We will be utilizing a multi-tiered level of support model that is based upon needs identified in a risk-analysis. The activities we conduct will satisfy the requirements of the IDEA, but will be primarily data-driven. Your assigned program specialist will work with you to explain the system and to help you analyze data and develop or enhance your own internal supervision system for compliant paperwork.

This guide describes the requirements for each of the major components in special education. You are free to make copies of this guide so that staff members are aware of these requirements. In addition, you may use the guide as a resource as you develop your own system of internal supervision. The guide is also available on the Arizona Department of Education web page: azed.gov/special-education/program-support-monitoring/. If you have any questions please contact the program specialist for your school, district or charter.

